

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~Intervertebral~~ An intervertebral disk prosthesis or nuclear prosthesis (1) consisting of a longitudinal, flexibility-yielding object that is adapted to ~~which can~~ be wound in a spiral shape (2), with a first exterior end (3), a second interior end (4) and a longitudinal central axis (5), ~~is characterised in that~~ wherein ~~the~~ a cross-section (10) of the object (2) which is orthogonal towards the central axis (5) is reduced in size towards the second interior end (4).

2. (Currently Amended) ~~Intervertebral~~ The intervertebral disk prosthesis (1) ~~as per claim 1 is characterised according to claim 1, wherein in that~~ the orthogonal cross-section (10) is continuously reduced in size.

3. (Currently Amended) The intervertebral ~~Intervertebral~~ disk prosthesis (1) ~~as per claim 1 or 2 is characterised in that~~ according to claim 1, wherein the cross-section (10) of the object (2), which is orthogonal towards the central axis (5), is continuously reduced in size towards the first exterior end (3), preferably with the reduction occurring continuously.

4. (Currently Amended) The intervertebral ~~Intervertebral~~-disk prosthesis (1) as per ~~one of the claims 1 to 3~~ is characterised in that according to claim 1, wherein a the-measured width of the object (2), running vertically towards the central axis (5), is reduced in size, when viewed from its center toward ~~—viewed from its centre—~~ towards the exterior end (3), ~~preferably with the reduction occurring and wherein the~~ measured width reduction occurs continuously.

5. (Currently Amended) The intervertebral ~~Intervertebral~~-disk prosthesis (1) as per ~~one of the claims 1 to 4~~ is characterised in that according to claim 1, wherein a the-measured width of the object (2), running vertically towards the central axis (5), is reduced in size, when ~~—viewed from its centre—towards~~ center toward the inner end (4), ~~preferably and wherein the~~ with the reduction occurring measured width reduction occurs continuously.

6. (Currently Amended) The intervertebral ~~Intervertebral~~-disk prosthesis (1) as per ~~one of the claims 1 to 5~~ is characterised in that ~~the~~ according to claim 1, wherein a width of the object (2) in its ~~centre~~ center is wider by 50% to 500%, preferably wider by 100% to 300%, than at its interior and exterior ends (4,3).

7. (Currently Amended) The intervertebral ~~Intervertebral~~-disk prosthesis (1) as per ~~one of the claims 1 to 6~~ is characterised in that according to claim 1, wherein the object (2) in its spiral-wound state towards the central axis (5) features an upper spiral level (6) and a lower spiral level (7), which are both curved in convex shapes

and are suitable for application to the cover plates of two adjacent intervertebral disk spaces.

8. (Currently Amended) The intervertebral ~~Intervertebral~~-disk prosthesis (1) as per one of the claims 1 to 7 is characterised in that according to claim 1, wherein the object (2) in a spiral-wound unloaded state features a gap between the spirals.

9. (Currently Amended) The intervertebral ~~Intervertebral~~-disk prosthesis (1) as per claim 8 is characterised in that according to claim 8, wherein the gap has a minimum width of 0.4 mm, ~~preferably a minimum of 0.5 mm.~~

10. (Currently Amended) The intervertebral ~~Intervertebral~~-disk prosthesis (1) as per claim 8 or 9 is characterised in that ~~the gap has a maximum width of 1,0 mm, preferably a maximum of 0,8 mm~~ according to claim 8, wherein the gap has a maximum width of 1 mm.

11. (Currently Amended) The intervertebral ~~Intervertebral~~-disk prosthesis (1) as per one of the claims 1 to 10 is characterised in that according to claim 1, wherein the object (2) in a spiral-wound state, when viewed ~~viewed at the spiral level,~~ features an oval or kidney-shaped shape, and having ~~preferably with a surface~~ between 250 to 750 mm² measured at the spiral level.

12. (Currently Amended) The intervertebral ~~Intervertebral~~-disk prosthesis (1) as per one of the claims 1 to 11 is characterised in that according to claim 1, wherein

the object (2) contains a hydrogel ~~and preferably consists completely of hydrogel.~~

13. (Currently Amended) The intervertebral ~~Intervertebral~~-disk prosthesis (1) ~~as per one of the claims 1 to 9 is characterised in that~~ according to claim 1, wherein the object (2) is manufactured using an injection-molding process and its injection point (9) is positioned in ~~the~~ an area of the second end (4).

14. (Currently Amended) The intervertebral ~~Intervertebral~~-disk prosthesis (1) ~~as per claim 13 is characterised in that~~ according to claim 13, wherein the injection point (9) is located in a recess vis-à-vis the upper spiral level (6).

15. (Currently Amended) The intervertebral ~~Intervertebral~~-disk prosthesis (1) ~~as per one of the claims 1 to 14 is characterised in that~~ according to claim 1, wherein the first end (3) is designed asymmetrically towards ~~the~~ an interior of the spiral.

16. (Currently Amended) The intervertebral ~~Intervertebral~~-disk prosthesis (1) ~~as per one of the claims 1 to 15 is characterised in that~~ according to claim 1, wherein the object (2) is X-ray-opaque, ~~preferably achieved by using the additive barium sulfate.~~

17. (Currently Amended) The intervertebral ~~Intervertebral~~-disk prosthesis (1) ~~as per one of the claims 1 to 16 is characterised in that~~ according to claim 1, wherein the object (2) contains X-ray-opaque components, ~~preferably in the form of filaments, wires or tiny globes.~~

18. (Currently Amended) The intervertebral ~~Intervertebral~~-disk prosthesis (1) ~~as per one of the claims 1 to 17 is characterised in that according to claim 1, wherein~~ a ~~the~~ last exterior spiral turn with a circumference of at least 360° of the spiral-wound object (2) ~~features~~ has a thinner cross-section ~~when compared with the~~ than remaining spiral turns.

19. (Currently Amended) The intervertebral ~~Intervertebral~~-disk prosthesis (1) ~~as per one of the claims 1 to 18 is characterised in that according to claim 1, wherein~~ the exterior end (3) of the object (2) is fitted with aids (11, 12, 13, 14), which are suited for gripping the intervertebral disk prosthesis (1) using an insertion instrument, ~~preferably in the form of indentations or protrusions.~~